

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A switching device comprising a frame (2), a first connector (4) and a second connector (6), the first connector (4) and the second connector (6) extending from inside the frame (2) outside the frame (2), means (8) for connecting the first (4) and the second (6) connector electrically to one another, and one or more gas flow openings (10, 11) provided in the frame (2) and arranged for a gas flow produced by a switching event, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in its portion remaining inside the frame (2), the first connector (4) comprises a hole (12) provided for said gas flow.

2. (Currently Amended) A switching device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the frame includes an upper part (14) and a lower part (16), the lower part (16) being arranged to reside in the vicinity of frame structures of a mounting space, such as a switchgear cubicle, and ~~that~~ wherein each of said gas flow openings (10, 11) provided in the frame (2) resides farther from the lower part (16) of the switching device than the first connector (4) and the second connector (6) do.

3. (Currently Amended) A switching device as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the first connector (4) and the second connector (6) are identical with one another.

4. (Currently Amended) A switching device as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises~~ claim 1, comprising one gas flow opening (10, 11) for each connector (4, 6), ~~and that,~~ wherein said gas flow openings (10, 11) differ in the size of their cross-sectional area.

5. (Currently Amended) A switching device as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the surface area of each said gas flow opening (10, 11) is dimensioned such that in a switching situation, the velocity of gas discharging out of each gas flow opening (10, 11) is substantially the same.

6. (New) A switching device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first connector and the second connector are identical with one another.

7. (New) A switching device as claimed in claim 2, comprising one gas flow opening for each connector, wherein said gas flow openings differ in the size of their cross-sectional area.

8. (New) A switching device as claimed in claim 3, comprising one gas flow opening for each connector, wherein said gas flow openings differ in the size of their cross-sectional area.